



**PETROLEUM  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**ARCHIVES**

*Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society*

*October 2004; Volume XV, Number 6*

**P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – October 28, 2004**

**Speaker: Helen Goldenburg**  
*Preserving the Memories*  
**“Little Chicago Revisited”**

Helen is a native Calgarian who moved with her family to Little Chicago/Royalties in 1937 at the beginning of the third Turner Valley region oil and gas boom that was triggered by the discovery of oil on the west flank of the Turner Valley structure. The discovery well was Turner Valley Royalties No.1 located just to the west of Longview. Little Chicago was about 1.5 km north of Longview along Hwy. 22. Helen attended elementary school and one year of high school there before returning to Calgary in 1945. Her speech will contain some recollections of her life in Little Chicago/Royalties and will also describe how she spearheaded an initiative to erect a monument where her bustling oil and gas “boom town” once stood – a place that is now covered in fields of wheat with a few pumpjacks quietly recovering oil from that same pool almost 70 years later. The initiative was triggered at a school reunion in 2002 and the committee formed was widely supported. Talisman Energy, now the operator on the south end of the field, assisted in the site development and the cairn on the west side of the highway was officially opened on July 24 of this past summer.

**TIME:** 12 noon, Thursday, October 28, 2004.  
**PLACE:** Fairmont Palliser Hotel (133 - 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W.) – Penthouse (check marquee)  
**COST:** Members \$25.00 and Guests \$30.00 (most welcome)

**R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend to: Clint Tippett, 691-4274 or  
[clinton.tippett@shell.com](mailto:clinton.tippett@shell.com) by noon Tuesday, October 26**

***Additionally In This Issue ...***  
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Summaries of previous talks will appear in the next issue of Archives. They will be accompanied by a series of interesting stories. This issue, however, is dedicated to news that has broken since our last issue.

Archives is published approximately 6 times a year by the Petroleum History Society for Society members. Back issues are archived on our website at:

[www.petroleumhistory.ca](http://www.petroleumhistory.ca)

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**THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**THE BULL WHEEL**



**Next Board Meeting:** The Board will meet next on Thursday, November 4 at noon at the Glenbow Museum and Archives. Meet in the lobby just before noon.

**Volunteers:** We are always on the lookout for people with the energy and dedication to help us grow and to undertake projects on the Society's behalf. Please contact Clint Tippet (691-4274), Doug Cass (268-4203) or Hugh Leiper (249-0707) if you would like to get involved.

**Next Luncheons:** On December 1, 2004 Ned Gilbert will be addressing our luncheon on the topic of some of the early exploration methods used in western Canada. We are always looking for speakers and interesting subjects. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Clint Tippet, President P.H.S., at 691-4274 or Director Debbie Knall at 780-463-3859 (Edmonton).

**P.H.S. Membership:** Micky Gulless, Past President and Membership Director, has indicated that P.H.S. membership now stands at 151.

**Website:** Micky has recently compiled some statistics concerning the P.H.S. website that she constructed, administers and continually improves on behalf of our Society. We have had 60-70 visits per day over the last 12 months or about 2000 visits per month – and from all over the world. Most find us through Google, Yahoo and MSN. The most popular items are links to other petroleum history websites, wells commemorated by our pins, Doug Cass's bibliography, the story of the first gas well in Alberta, our oral history project, our books list from DeMille's (now part of McNally-Robinson) and the chronology of western Canadian wells provided to us by Director Frank Dabbs. This is a great success story for our Society! Thanks Micky!

**Leduc/Devon Oilfield Historical Society Update:** The last few issues of "Catwalk", the newsletter produced by this society, contain descriptions of several interesting initiatives by this organization. They include a number of educational programs: for Grade 2 Social Studies – "Let's Build an Oil Town!" (about the town of Devon); for Grade 3 Science – "Fish Guts and Rock Vugs" (about geology and geophysics); and for Grade 4 Social Studies – "Leduc #1: The Well that Shaped a Province". Good stuff! They also have some entertaining oilfield-related activities. The Rig Hand Games were held on June 5 at their Centre outside Devon and included the pipe roll obstacle course, the BOP nipple up contest, the drill bit packing strongman contest and the man down H2S rescue. The winner of the overall competition was named the Rig Hand of the Year and received several prizes. June 20 saw the Bellybuster BBQ at which volunteer crews operated several rigs donated to the Society.

**P.H.S. Pin Sets:** Our pin sets (of 6) have recently been reduced in price to \$40.00. Please contact Joyce Wright at 252-4143 if you are interested in buying one or several sets. These make great and original Calgary- or Western Canada-related gifts. Detailed comprehensive descriptions accompany each plush-boxed set.

**Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists:** The recent convention of this group featured a number of very well done historical posters whose preparation was coordinated by Society Secretary Peter Savage under the broader publicity program managed by Member Sean Callaghan. The posters each contained historical information in its photo caption and conference attendees had to fill in a "passport" of questions in order to be eligible for several prizes. It was a great way to bring petroleum history to a wider audience. Thanks Peter and Sean!

**Book Launch:** On June 8 Society Director Aubrey Kerr held a book launch for his latest publication "Corridors of Time III" at McNally-Robinson Bookstore on the Stephen Avenue Mall. He also promoted his earlier work "Leduc". According to Aubrey the event was well attended. Please drop by the bookstore where you will find a large portrait of Aubrey gazing down on you from the upper levels. A good supply of his publications can be found on the lower level that is now home to the DeMille Technical book story collection (now part of McNally).

**CFCN Historical Series:** This local television station has undertaken a project to commemorate 100 important stories that form parts of Alberta's history and heritage. It is being prepared as part of the Alberta Centennial celebrations and is formally entitled "The Centennial Series: 100 Years – 100 Stories". The first 50 episodes are being directly selected by the station and will focus on the obvious stories like Leduc and Gretzky but the other 50 are contingent on suggestions that can be made to them. The series is receiving major funding from C.A.P.P. (the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers) – you may have seen the ads requesting input. For more information, please call Lloyd Lewis, Promotion Manager at CFCN, at 403-240-5655.

**American Association of Petroleum Geologists – Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists 2005:** These two societies are holding a joint meeting in Calgary on June 19-22, 2005. Amongst the large range of technical activities there are a couple of items that will be of interest to historically minded folks. The first is a half day field trip to Turner Valley being co-sponsored by the History and Archives Division of the C.S.P.G. and the History of Petroleum Geology Division of the A.A.P.G. This is being held as a run up to several keynote speeches concerning oil and gas in the Middle East. The second is a technical session entitled "History of Petroleum Exploration in Alberta and Saskatchewan: A Centennial Symposium". Your President is chairing this session and is looking for submissions for talks. The deadline is coming up (November 12). There are two important qualifications. Firstly, speakers must be registered attendees for the convention and secondly, presentations must be in Powerpoint format – we seem to have reached the stage where overheads and even 35 mm slides are technologies non-grata! If you are interested, please give Clint a call at 691-4274.

**Likeminded Folks:** We have run across several groups whose mandates are somewhat similar to our own. If you are interested, please check out the following organizations. The Petroleum History Institute (formerly the Drake Well Foundation) publishes "Oil Industry History". It held its "2004 International Symposium of the History of the Oil Industry" on September 8-11 in Morgantown, West Virginia and is now advertising its like-named 2005 equivalent to be held April 6-9 at the same locality. The American Oil and Gas Historical Society seeks to provide a communications network among the U.S.'s 50 oil and gas-related museums. The A.A.P.G. division is mentioned above and the Geological Society of America has a "History of Geology" Division that can be contacted at <http://gsahist.org>.

**2003 P.H.S. Awards:** The Society is planning to make these awards in either December or January. As you will recall our categories are Book of the Year, Article of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, Multimedia and Preservation. If you have some suggestions for nominations, please contact either President Clint Tippet at 691-4274 or Treasurer Doug Cass at 268-4203. Remember that for Book, Article and Multimedia the associated date must be 2003.

**Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame – 2004 Inductees:** The 2004 Induction Ceremony was held on September 24 in Edmonton. This year's inductees, along with their primary affiliation, were Jack A. Armstrong (Imperial Oil), George Blackstock (Beta Well Service), William H. (Bill) Brown (Superior Oil Company), Gerry DeSorcy (Alberta Energy Conservation Board), Harley Norman Hotchkiss (Canadian Superior Oil), Robert A. Meneley (Petro-Canada) and Donald Milton Wolcott (Dome Petroleum). This note cannot do justice to their accomplishments for which a visit to the Hall's website is in order. These prominent individuals bring to 88 the total membership in the Hall that includes a number of P.H.S. members, namely (with year of Hall of Fame induction): Director and Lifetime Member Aubrey Kerr (1998), Lifetime Member Arne Nielsen (1998), Lifetime Member Gerry Maier (1999), Lifetime Member Helen Turgeon (2000), Lifetime Member Don Axford (2001), Director and member Hugh Leiper (2002), and Lifetime Member Tony Vanden Brink (2002).

**New Releases – Canadian Centre for Energy Information:** The new Centre has had an excellent start partly attributable to the release of three new publications. The first is the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of "Our Petroleum Challenge" which is subtitled "Sustainability into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and now weighs in at 132 pages. The second is a web-based historical treatment of the oil and gas industry in Canada called "Evolution of Canada's Oil and Gas Industry". At 56 pages it is an outgrowth of the historical portion of Our Petroleum Challenge that was spun off to keep the latter to a reasonable size. The last is a new addition to the series on various aspects of the industry (prior volumes were Canada's Crude Oil Resources, Canada's Natural Gas Resources, Canada's Pipelines, and Canada's Oil Sands and Heavy Oil). This one is "Canada's Evolving Offshore Oil and Gas Industry" at 41 pages. For more information contact the Centre at [www.centreforenergy.com](http://www.centreforenergy.com) Of significance for our own Society is that all these three new volumes have been authored by P.H.S. Director and Member Robert (Bob) Bott. Great work Bob!

**Turner Valley Interpretation Centre Initiative:** As a part of this tentative Alberta plan for the Turner Valley site, a component of edutainment (educational entertainment) has been proposed. I would like to poll our readers to see what types of foods, drinks and toys might be contemplated for this purpose. Might we have a flaming King Royalite in the burger section, a Nitro cocktail to follow and a build-your-own gas plant to pass the hours away? Seriously, this type of promotional stuff builds a unique character to any facility and will draw people in from all around! If you have any suggestions, please send them in. By the way, one of the proponents of this re-development told us that the name "Hell's Half Acre" is "sexy". Funny, I always wondered if this name wasn't one of the reasons that the project has struggled in the so-called "Bible Belt" of Alberta.

**Donations:** Several of our members have been kind enough to donate some additional funds to the Society to support our various projects. Thanks!

**A Comparative History of National Oil Companies:** Treasurer Doug Cass was recently contacted by an individual named Alain Beltran who was one of the organizers for this conference held in Paris about a year ago. Petro-Canada is not mentioned – did they know?

**Call for Memorable Stories and Photos:** Oilweek and the Oil and Gas Inquirer are looking for stories, memories and photographs from individuals involved in the evolution of the oil patch. Selected items will be published in a 2005 commemorative issue that celebrates Alberta's Centennial with a look back through the decades at the history of Alberta's oil and gas industry. Submission deadline is December 15, 2004. Please address inquiries and entries to Darrell Stonehouse, Managing Editor, at June Warren Publishing Limited, 800, 1333 8 Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2R 1M6. Phone 403-265-3700 or toll free 1-888-563-2946. E-mail dstonehouse@junewarren.com.

**Boondoggles, Bonanzas and other Alberta Stories, by Brian Brennan:** Fifth House Publishing recently released this book by Brian Brennan, a local Calgary author. A paperback of 5.5" x 8.5", it contains 224 pages of Alberta history, includes 25 black and white pictures and costs \$16.95. There is a fair amount of oil industry history in it including chapters on "Waterton Lakes Oil Boom – September 1902", "All Hell for a Basement" – October 1907", ""Last Chance" Well Gives Leduc a Bonanza – February 1947", and "Black Gold Mined from Grit – September 1967". Check it out. If anyone is interested in reviewing the book or individual chapters, please let us know. Thanks.

**Hibernia Drills Top Three Deepest Canadian Wells in 2003:** The Hibernia offshore oil production platform set new Canadian drilling standards with its deepest-ever well completed last November. Sunk to a total depth of 9357m, Hibernia B-16 36 is considered to be among the top 10 longest reach wells ever drilled, according to Noble Drilling (Canada) Limited, which completed the well. The other two wells were the B-16 34Y well that went to 7883m in May 2003 and similar well B-16 40, completed in August 2003. The next deepest Canadian well was completed at Swan Hills, Alberta last November, reaching a depth of 5850m. Thanks to Oilweek.

**Year of the Coal Miner (2004) Conference:** September 29 to October 1, 2004 saw the Industrial Heritage Preservation Conference entitled "Industrial Heritage: Asset or Liability?" held in Lethbridge, Alberta. It was paged as "a three day conference for museum professionals, municipal planners, heritage volunteers and post-secondary students, promoting an understanding of the economic, social and cultural impacts of industrial heritage preservation; creating maximum impact with regional collaborations and partnerships; and developing appropriate educational linkages.". Talks included "A View from Portland", "Community Mobilization", "Civic and Business Roles and Responsibilities", and "Telling the Story". A number of case studies were presented including Britannia Beach, B.C.; Butte, Montana; Fort McMurray, Alberta; Lowell, Massachusetts; Medicine Hat, Alberta; Portland, Oregon; and the Year of the Coal Miner tourism initiative, Alberta and B.C. A number of field excursions were also laid on addressing oil and gas (Turner Valley Gas Plant), coal (Coal mines of the Crowsnest Pass, including the Galt #8 mine site) and agriculture (Stavelly grain elevator, Nobleford plow plant and Raymond sugar factory).

**Petroleum-related books of interest from Texas A&M University Press:**

1. Early Texas Oil: A Photographic History 1866-1936, by W. Rundell. 260 p., \$34.95 U.S.
2. Builders: Herman and George R. Brown [of Brown and Root, ed.], by J.A. Pratt and C.J. Castaneda. 352 p., \$29.95 U.S.
3. Spindletop Boom Days, by P.N. Spellman. 282 p., \$29.95 U.S.
4. Pattillo Higgins and the Search for Texas Oil, by R. McDaniel and H.C. Dethloff. 192 p., \$19.95 U.S.
5. The Oil Makers, by J. Share. 432 p., \$29.95 U.S.
6. Done in Oil: An Autobiography, by J.H. Marshall. \$22.95 U.S.

Best way to access these volumes appears to be via the A&M website on the internet but you might also try getting all the details there and then ordering via Chapters.

**Society for Industrial Archeology – Annual Conference in Wilmington, Delaware:** October 13 to 17 marked the S.I.A. Fall Tour through Wilmington, Delaware. Amongst the wide range of other industrial tours, participants had the opportunity to visit DuPont's famed 1903 experimental chemical station, FMC's biopolymer plant, NVF's vulcanized fibre plant, and the Hagley Museum, one of the U.S.'s preeminent industrial history museums, located on the site of DuPont's original gunpowder mills and company village. For those interested in industrial archeology - and its possible applications to the Canadian context - membership in the SIA is a great portal. Contact Clint at 691-4274 for more information.

**The Peter McKenzie-Brown Library:** The Board of the P.H.S decided last March to name its book collection in honour of long time Board member and contributor Peter McKenzie-Brown. Peter donated his library to our Society and it has dwarfed what the P.H.S. previously had to draw upon. If you would like to become involved in the management of this resource, please let us know.

**Downtown Calgary Petroleum History Walking Tour:** While we did not repeat last year's highly successful excursion this year, this initiative is still active. At the close of its initial run we realized that there was a lot of additional research that could be done to make this concept even better. If this sort of digging and documentation appeal to you, please get a hold of one of the Board and we can get together to discuss. We may try to offer such convenient walks as a part of the program of the conferences held by various technical groups in Calgary's downtown conference facilities.

**C.S.E.G. Convention – Part II:** As well as taking a leadership role at last spring's convention through the poster project reported elsewhere in this issue, the P.H.S. also had a booth to attract interest in our group. Joyce Wright coordinated this work that led to a number of new members signing up. Thanks Joyce – we will miss your highly organized approach and energy. The booth, once again, featured a contest. In this case the item of interest was to interpret an undescribed photograph of some summer students of Shell Canada pulling in an offshore seismic streamer during an acquisition program in the 1960's off Canada' West Coast. Congratulations to our winners!

**Crudite:** In case you were a bit woozy after last March's A.G.M., the cause might have been what the Palliser served us. I found one of those little signs on the table that was labeled "Vegetable Crudite with Assorted Dips"! It seems to have nothing to do with crude oil.

**At It Again:** On September 18 there was an article in the Calgary Herald discussing high energy prices and Alberta's fortunate circumstances. Author Don Marin stated "it would take \$27 barrel of oil and \$5 mcf (thousand cubic feet) of natural gas just to sustain the province's spending and keep a special fund for emergencies filled." The same article was also printed in the affiliated National Post that day in which this sentence had become "it would take \$27 barrel oil and a \$5000 cubic feet of natural gas price just to sustain the province's spending and keep a special fund for emergencies filled." Is it any wonder that people don't know what's going on in the industry when the media can't even understand and keep the units straight? After all it's only a million times more expensive in the Post!